project. Now I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why its completion has been delayed for such a long period and why the funds which were to be provided by the Central Government have not been provided? Secondly, the hon. Minister has stated that it is a national project and Central Government would provide hundred percent financial assistance for this project. So I would like to know the amount of money to be given by Central Government during the current year and the coming years and how long it will take to complete the project?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, irrigation is a state subject. Therefore, the State Governments have to bear the whole expenditure on irrigation. The Central government generally do not provide any money for it. It is just for this particular project that about Rs. 5 crores have been sanctioned Rs. 15 crores have been sanctioned for advance plan. Keeping the importance of the project in view, the Government is prepared to meet the whole expenditure on this project. If this project satisfies the norms laid down for a national project and Planning Commission approves it as such, then work on this project will be carried out in a different way otherwise the Government of West Bengal will have to complete the project with its own resources. As I have already stated, the matter is still under consideration, and no decision has yet been taken.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government have any proposal to construct a barrage as a part of the Teesta. Barrage Project, at or near Coronation Bridge in North Bengal. I am and for that matter, the people of Sikkim are not against tha Teesta Barrage Project. But, if this particular barrage is constructed at this particular point, then, our people are apprehensive that three towns which are situated on the bank of River Teesta will be submerged. Not only these three towns, but also the whole National Highway 31A, will be submerged. If it is so, I want to know the reaction of the hon. Minister to this.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I do not know which of the three barrages affects the area that the hon. Member indicated.

One barrage is proposed to be constructed at Gazoldaba in Jalpaiguri District; second barrage is proposed to be constructed at Phulbari in Jalpariguri District; and the third barrage is proposed to be constructed on Dauk River and this would be on Teestajaldaka main Canal. These are the three barrage under contemplation.

I do not know which of the barrages is going to affect the area that the hon. lady member has said. But, I will look into this matter and find out what are the implications of submersion in these three barrages.

Production of Copper

*454. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated reserves of copper available in the country and the locations thereof;

(b) the annual production of copper vis-a vis its demand in the country; and

(c) the details of public sector undertakings engaged in the production of copper including profitability of each undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The estimated reserves of copper in the country as on 31.3.1988 are 632 million tonnes. These reserves are available mostly in Madhya Pradesh (38%), Bihar (35%), Rajasthan (19%) with smaller deposits in Karnataka, Andhra pradesh, Sikkim and a

few other States.

(b) The indigenous production of copper in the country is about 50, 000 tonnes per annum against the current annual demand of around 1.8 lakh tonnes.

(c) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) is the only public sector undertaking producing copper metal in the country. The net profit earned by the company is as follows.-

	(Rs. in crores)
1989-90	45.18
1990-91	45.10
1991-92	66.42*

(*Apnl to Feb, 1992 Provisional)

SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN Sir, from?? to the answer provided, you would find that today only 27.7 per cent of the demand for copper is being met indigenously. Two years ago, it was 34 per cent and as we go along, the demand will continue to increase and we shall have to depend on the imports

My question is this: What is the current level of foreign exchange outgo and what are the steps which are being taken by the Government to augment indigenous production of copper so that the foreign exchange outgo will be minimised and at the same time, our dependence on external sources of copper will be minimised ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: In reply to the f * of the question raised by the hon. Me I would like to submit that the foreign exchange to the tune of Rs 800 crores is involved in importing Copper from other countries. So far as the second part of the question is concerned, the Government wants to take some measures - such as increasing the mining capacity in the country, giving incentives to increase secondary capacity, utilizing the present installed smelting and refining capacity to the maximum. Besides all this, there are proposals for increasing copper smelting and refinery capacity from 31, 000 tonnes to 45, 000 tonnes per year in the western part i.e. in Rajasthan in accordance with the availability of funds in Eighth Five Year Plan; increasing the yearly production of ore in Malajkhand mine in the Central part i.e. in Madhya Pradesh from two to three million tonnes; developing the Banvas mine in Western part i.e. Rajathan and the development of Chhapri, Sidheshwari mine in eastern part i.e. in Bihar with the capcity of about 0. 75 million tonnes and installing a matching concentrator.

[*English*]

SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Is the Government intending to involve the private sector also in the production of copper. Presently, it is the public sector which the sole producer of copper in our country particularly in the ore-mining and processing sectors. If so, what is the policy of the Government under the liberalised atmosphere.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BLARAM SINGH YADAV. It is true that uptill now the mining and processing of copper was reserved for the public sector. But with the change of circumstances the policy regarding procesing of copper has been liberaliseed and now the people in pnvate sector can also purchase the scrap from other countries and undertake smelting work to prepare copper.

[*English*]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know that to increase the production to meet our demand, what is the present capacity of the industry already established. Only mining will not solve the problem. What is the added capacity that the Government is proposing to have during the Eighth Plan?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: At present the total installed production capacity refined copper is about 47, 500 tonnes per annum. Steps are being taken to meet the shortage.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: 38 per cent of the total copper reserves are there in Madhya Pradesh, and there is not even a single smelting plant in the State. In regard to the expansion programme, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to set up a smelting plant at Malajkhand in Balaghat which is the biggest reserve of the country, and if so, how log it will take to set up the plant?

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV The government has been actively considerating the matter. Today the biggest reserve of copper are in the country is there in Madhya Pradesh; and in Madhya Pradesh too Malajkhand is the place where copper is found the maximum. In this connection, I would like to submit that there was a proposal to set up a smelter at that place and a Japanese Consultancy firm was given the charge to prepare its feasibility report They were given two years time to accomplish this task. We hope that the report will be submitted within two or three months. When they submit their report and we are convinced of its feasibility and the increase in the production of copper, then the Government would certainly consider to set up the smelter during the Eighth Five Year Plan

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I confirm that Shri Digvijaya Singh has stated and would like to know the expenditure on transportation of raw copper from the mines of Malajkhand to the Khetri unit. The flaw in the planning is that the dismantle unit has not been set up at the place where copper is found. Had the dismantle unit been set up there, it would have resulted in low cost of production. I would like to know as to how much expenditure is involved in transportation.

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: For this I need a separate notice. However, I would like to tell the hon. Member that this company was set up there a long time ago and the hon. Members have time and again raised this question that the raw material has to be brought here from that place which involves expenditure on transportation. It is true that it involves expenditure on transportation which in turn escalates the overall cost of the production. But on the other hand, if smelter is set up there, its overall expenditure will be much higher that is why I submitted that in order to increase the overall production of copper in the country several measures are being taken and the Government do hope that they will be able to overcome the problems that come in the way in future.(*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let Dr. Bhoi ask his question in regard to mining.

[*English*]

DR KRUPSINDHU BHOI. Mr. Seaker Sir, the information which the Minister has given to the House has been supplied by the bureaucrats because the metallurgic or the ming engineers have not been consulted. Are there 632 million tonnes of copper reserves which has been shown to the House, mineable reserves? is the reserve of Copper ore deposit more than 2000 million tonnes in our country ? What is the percentage of Copper ore vis-a vis alloys ore particularly in Malaj Khand on which the project report can be prepared indigenously by the Khetnmine people who have done this job in a magnificent way? There is no question of asking Japan or Austrialia. The design parameter is available indigenously in our country. Why not the Government take a decision forthwith to have a copper smelter in the pithead area of Malaj Khand itself?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, mining is being carried out for the last several years in Khetri area, due to which the content of copper ore in raw m·· ·rial has been

decreasing (*Interruptions*) I do not have the information at the moment. Japanse technology is better than ours and that is why their expertise has been engaged so that they may conduct various studies and prepare the feasibility report and submit it to the Government of India.

Allocation to U.P. and Gujarat for Development of Tourist sports

*455 SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA
DR RAMESH CHAND TOMAR.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the total amount allocated to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat for development of tourist spots during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) the amount spent each year for the development of said sports, and

(c) the number of tourist spots development in these States with the said amount during 1990-91 ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M O.H FAROOK), (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) Development of tourists spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments However, Central financial assistance is extended for augmentation of tourism infrastructure on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments and dependent upon their merits, inter-se priorities and availability of funds During 1990-91 and 1991-92, the amount sanctioned and released for projects/ schemes received from the Government of U P and Gujarat is given below

(Rs in lakhs)

State	*1990-91*		*1991-92*	
	Amount sanctioned/	*released*	*Amount Sanctioned/*	*released*
U P	397.87	205 25	54 65	27 80
Gujarat	99 55	42 5 0	126 34	64 85

The projects/schemes which were sanctioned during 1990-91 included the augmentation of tourism infrastructure facilities at 32 locations in u.p and 7 in Gujarat

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA Mr Speaker. Sir, through you, I would like to sibmit that the hon. Minister in reply to my question has stated that only 7 places in Gujarat have been selected for developing tourism infrastructure. This number is very low Both Saurashtra and Gujarat have a right cultural heritage and Junagarh is famous all over the world for its lions Its architecture has no parallel The town is located at the foothills of Girnar Mountain If Junagarh is developed as a tourist spot, the country will, undoubtedly, earn a lot of foreign exchage Therefore, I would like to impress upon the hon Minister to link Junagarh with broad gauge line and provide a daily Indian Airlines flight to the township With its unique archaeological importance, if the above facilities are provided to the town-